

Daily Morning Message
St Paul United Church of Christ
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247
Allen M Fluent, Pastor
June 29, 2021

(Continuing our Meditations of Resolutions Proposed at General Synod)

Resolution to declare and respond to racism as a public health crisis

Guiding Scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-21, Matthew 25:31-46; Isaiah 10:1-2

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime.... (Isaiah 65:17-20)

This resolution brought to General Synod by the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) and the Council on Racial and Ethnic Ministries (COREM), intends to bring to the attention of the delegates documented disparities in health and longevity that exist in our society that are associated with race. The resolution maintains that racial inequities persist in every system of society, as evidenced through health care access, education, criminal justice, employment, housing, access to food and clean water, and many other factors, all of which bear upon the health deficit of people of color. The resolution proposes taking a closer look at these disparities as components of a system of racism and treating racism itself as a public health crisis. It urges all settings of the church to seek greater consciousness of racism through theological, bioethical and public health studies, and to monitor and advocate for public policies that move toward health equity. The resolution also calls for the US Congress and state legislatures to pass legislation that would address the social determinants of health.

Prayer: God, the issue of historical oppression that leads to shorter and less healthy lives goes back to ancient times, as witnessed by the Prophet Isaiah. May our dreams about the Realm of God always include the quest for lives made free from the inequitable distribution of the bounty you have provided. Open our eyes, we pray, to the truth that discriminatory racism persists within our world, and grant us the wisdom to discern where we might influence the changes needed to enable all your people to live as one. Amen.